flamstead future

Flamstead Parish Survey 2016

Summary of responses from adults

Participation

Survey was conducted between 27th May and 30th Jun 2016

Adult survey for those aged 16 and over:

454 individual responses received

(404 online, 50 in hard copy)

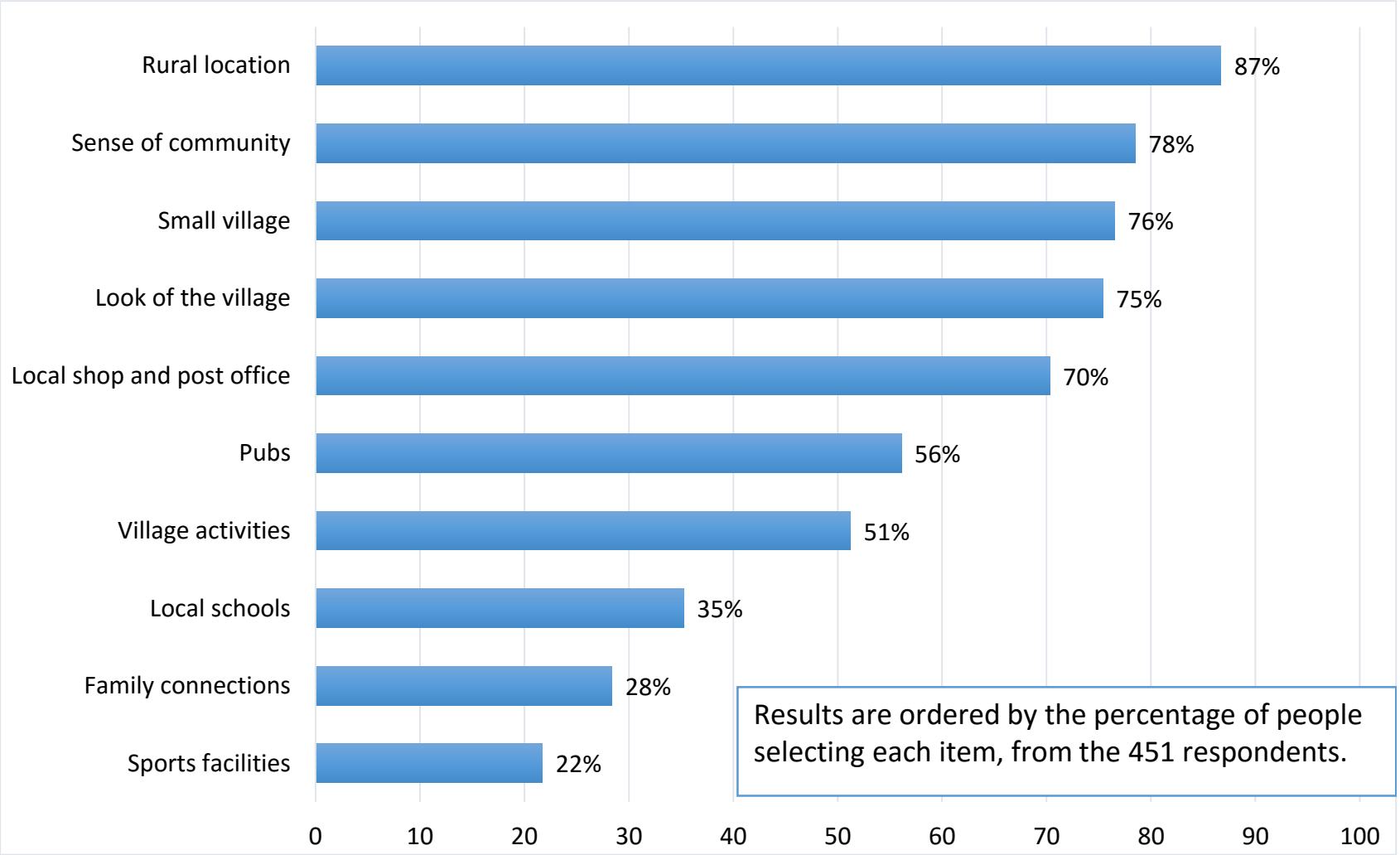
Young people's survey:

123 individual responses received

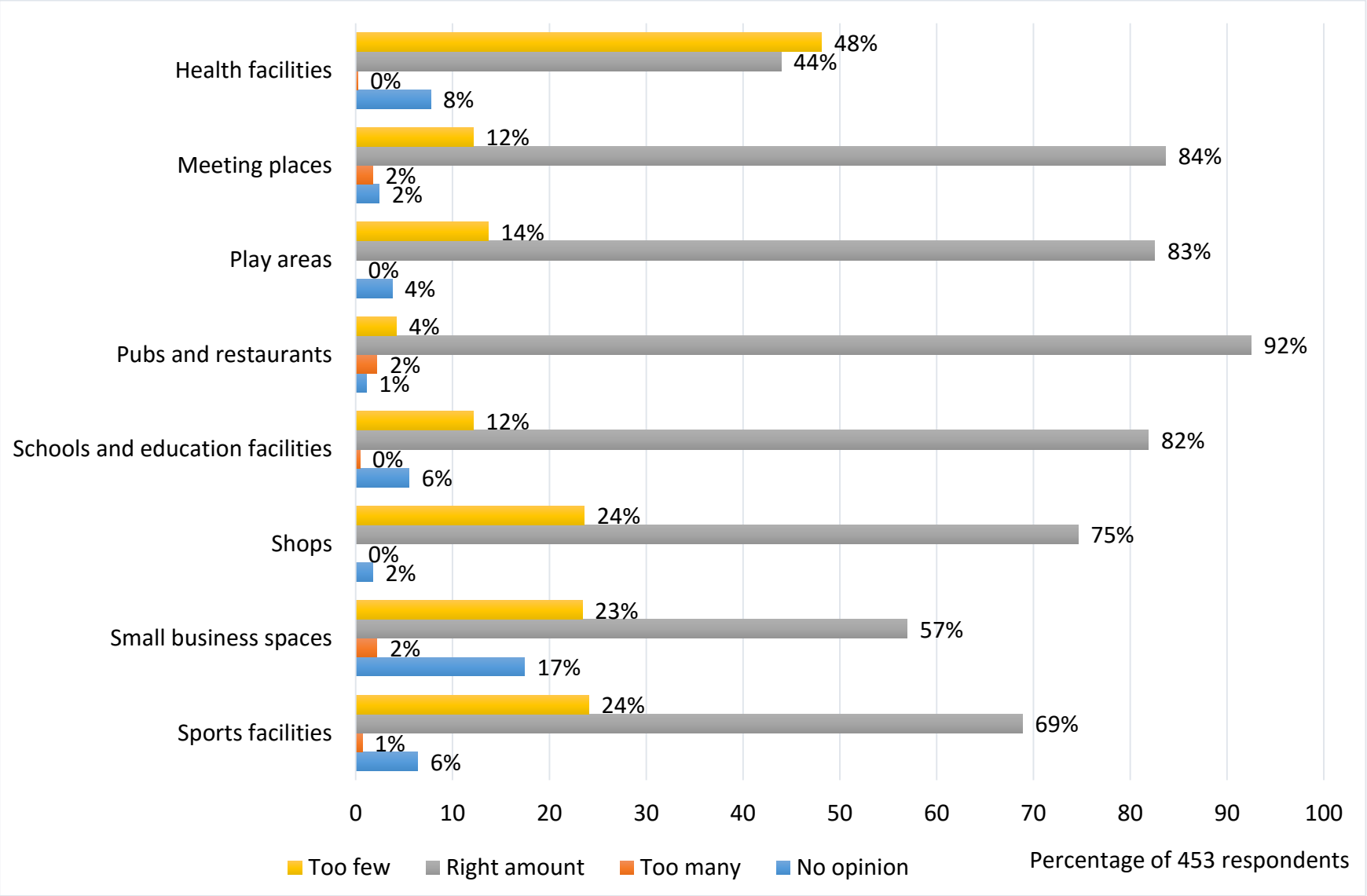
(44 from 5-7s, 43 from 8-10s, 36 from 11-15s)

People were made aware of the survey at the Parish Meeting and by posters, banner, email, groups, leaflets & follow-up visits

1. What are the most important things to you about living in Flamstead? Tick all that apply:



2. Given the size and character Flamstead, do you think we have the right amount of:



Main comments about village facilities - general

Health facilities

The visiting surgery was useful and is missed

Meeting places:

Better upkeep and more coordination re use of facilities suggested; Youth Club and fitness clubs put forward as ideas; there were mixed views on combining the Pavilion and Village Hall into one facility

Pubs and restaurants:

All are appreciated and valued

Schools:

More capacity may be needed in village school plus try to ensure preferential access for local children

Shops:

Village Stores and Post Office are valued; additional butcher / greengrocer / local produce shop would be welcome

Churches:

Seen as an important focus for village life and activities

Main comments about village facilities - sport

Sport:

There are pleas to save the swimming pool for village use
The rec is in need of better maintenance
More equipment and a wider range of activities for younger people, but keep it in proportion to size of village, and respect the wishes of benefactors

Play areas:

The kids' playground is regarded as an important facility but needs upgraded or better equipment, improved surfaces and some cleaning or work to prevent bad smells

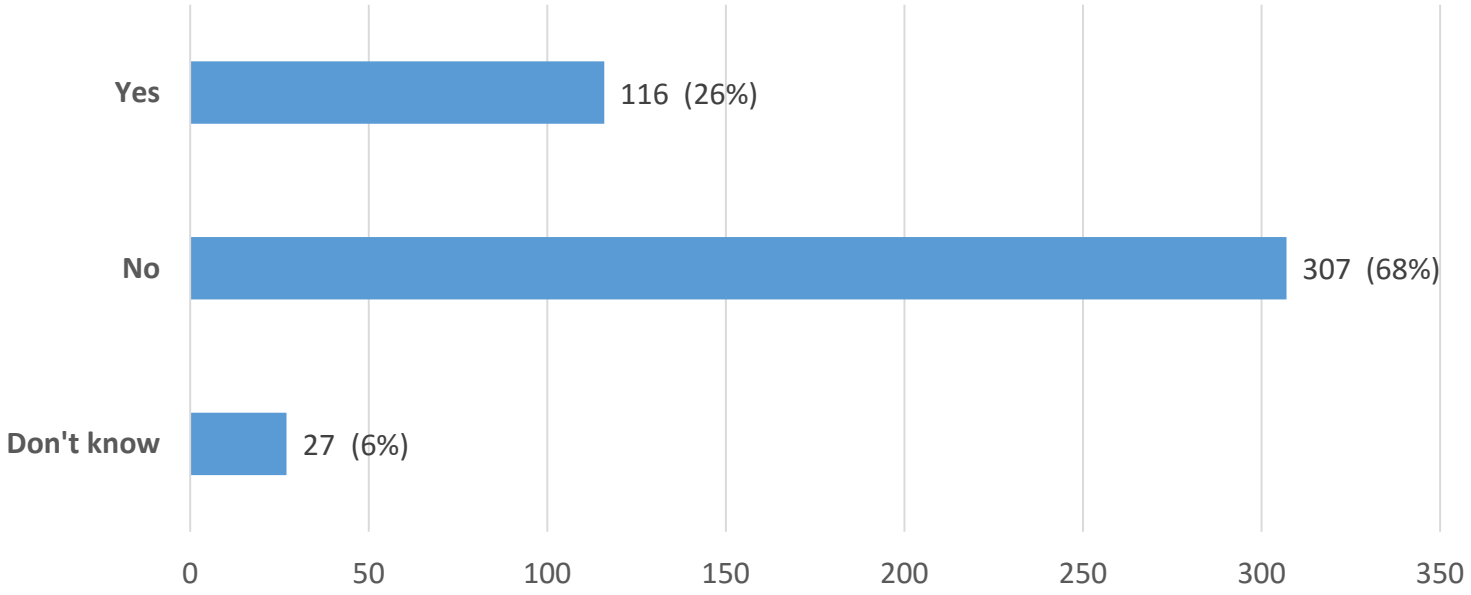
Pavilion:

Considered unfit for purpose, underused and in need of improvement: investigate fund-raising options

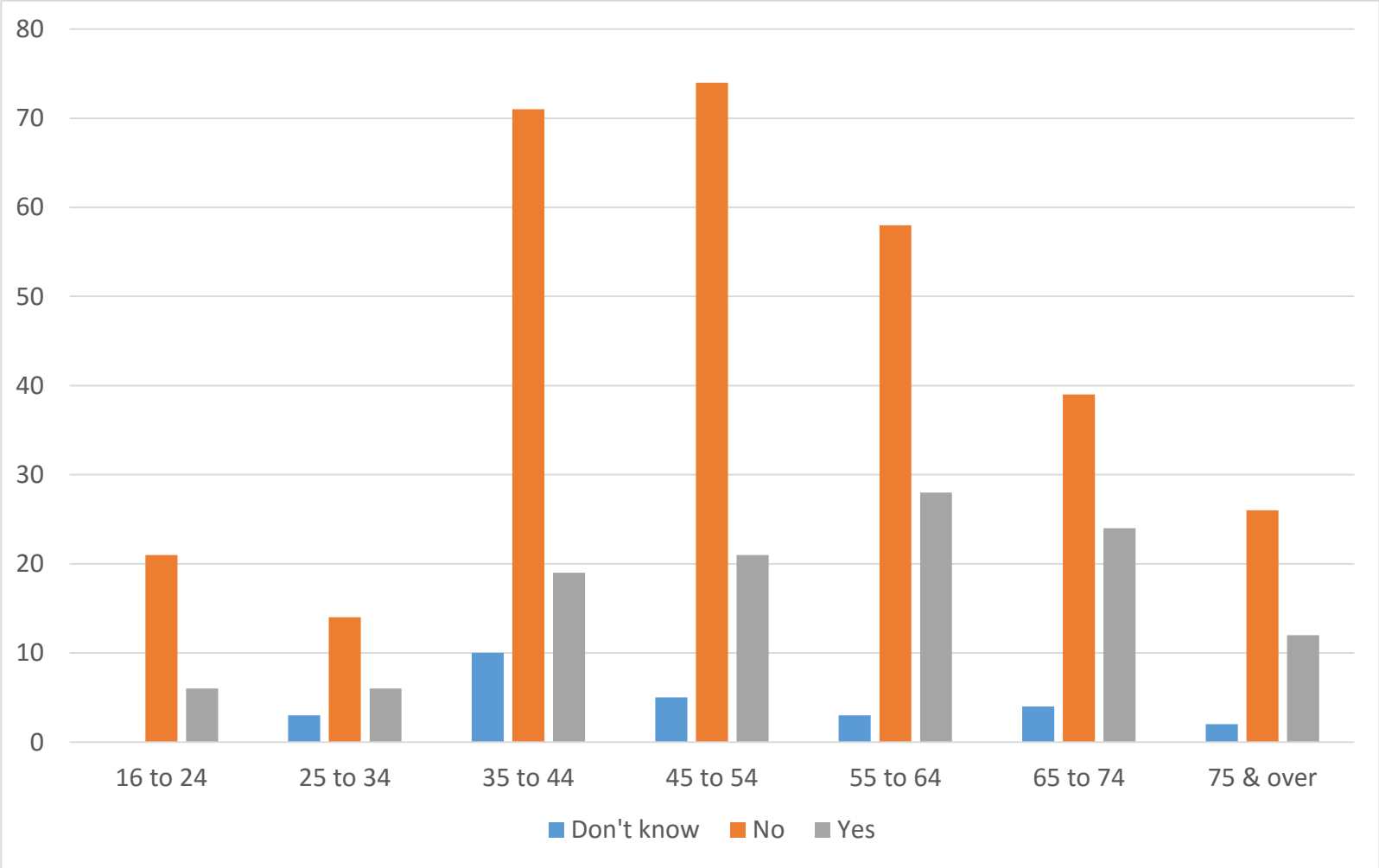
In general:

The sports groups and the volunteers who run them should be better supported by the Parish Council

3. Flamstead is in the Green Belt and is identified in the Dacorum Core Strategy as a “selected small village” where large scale growth is inappropriate. Current policy permits limited infilling for affordable (social) housing for local people, providing any development is sympathetic to its surroundings and protects the character and appearance of the village. Limited infilling is up to two dwellings per project, constructed within a gap along a built-up frontage or within a group of buildings. Do you want the possibility to be explored of providing MORE new housing in Flamstead than the policy permits?



Numbers of Q3 responses by age band



Main comments about development

No more than policy:

More than limited development would threaten what makes the village special; its historic small village status and AONB should be defended by the Parish Council; infrastructure, transport, roads and schools may not be able to cope with any significant additional development

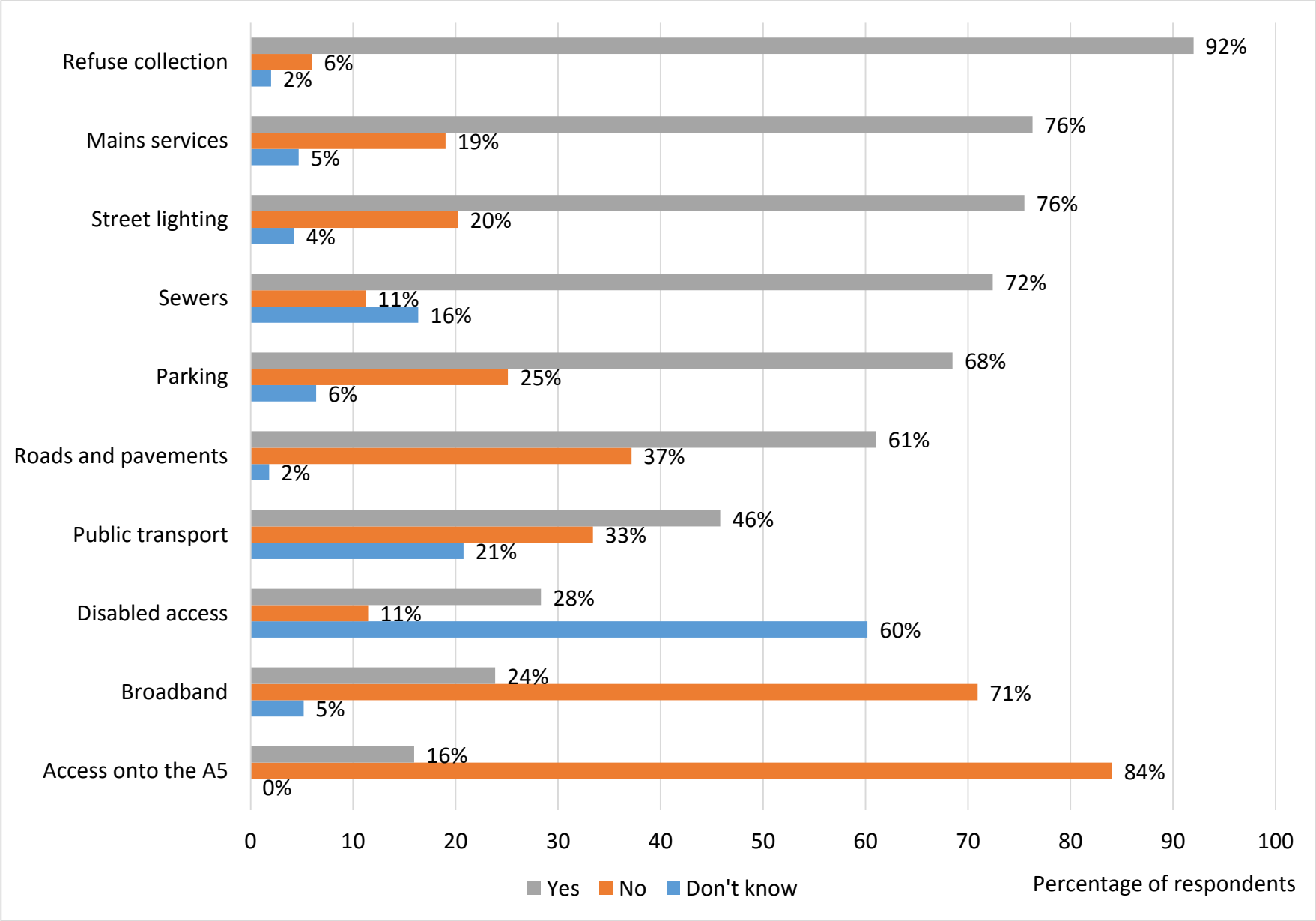
Additional housing quantities:

19 people indicated quantity preference for up to 25 new houses, 15 for 26-40 new houses, 6 people for 50-250; of those in favour of new development many would prefer in-fill rather than building on new land

Housing types:

For those wanting additional housing, affordable and starter homes are preferred; some wanted accommodation suitable for elderly people; a mix of housing types was preferred by others; there were mixed views on trying to restrict access to villagers only

4. Are you happy with the following in relation to Flamstead?



Main comments about transport and services

A5 access:

Many comments highlight serious safety concerns; 84% unhappy and want something done - eg traffic lights (80), roundabout (33), speed limit (16)

Broadband:

213 people (71%) unhappy

Roads, pavements and parking:

Dissatisfaction with potholes and state of roads and surfaces, also the need for drain clearing; overhanging bushes, lack of pavements and more drop-kerbs mentioned plus concerns over speeding in Singlets Lane and Trowley Hill Rd; parking is a problem particularly in the High St and around the rec

Public transport:

Regular bus to Harpenden would be of value, plus more frequent services in general including on Sundays

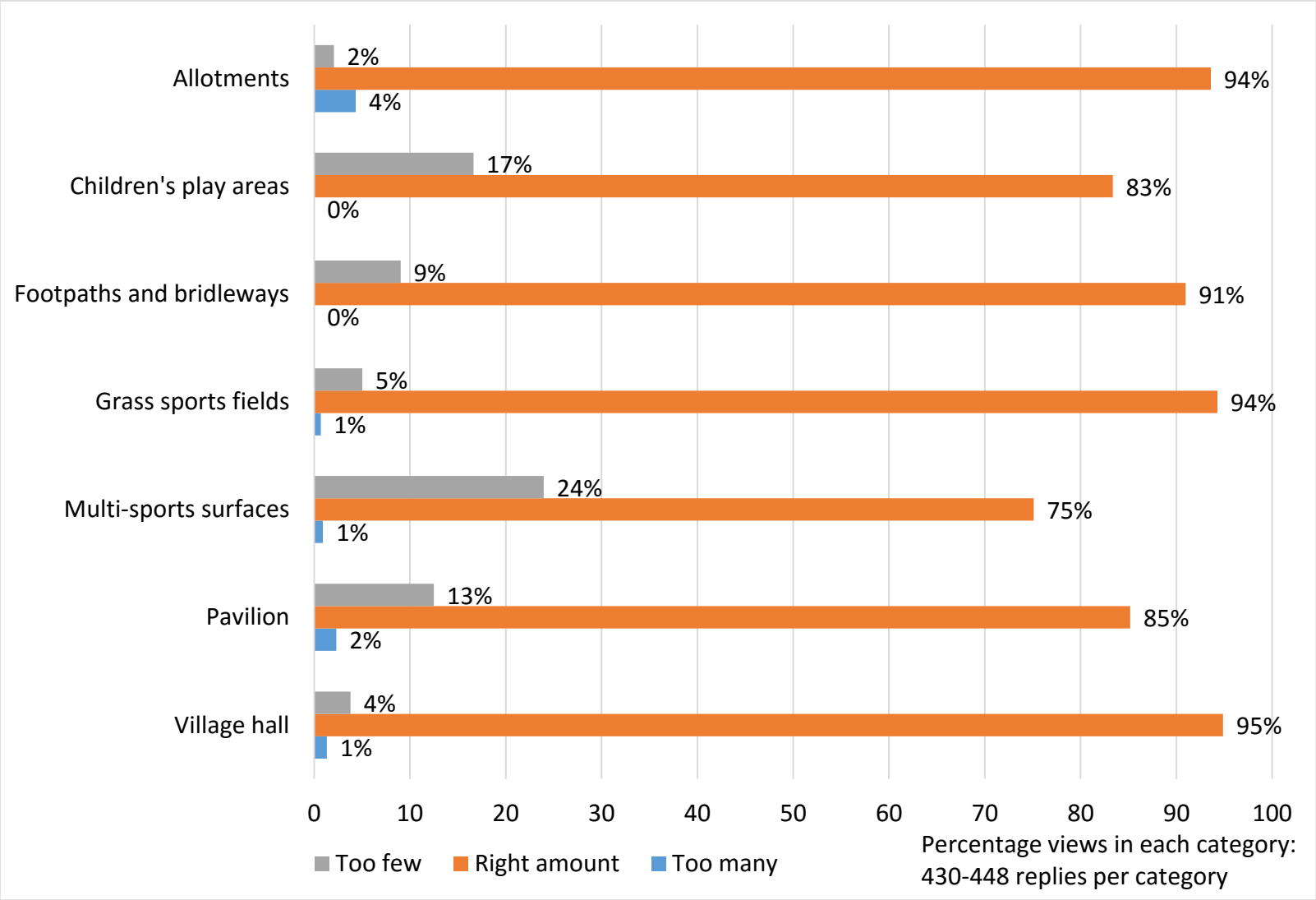
Street lights:

Some more needed plus repairs required

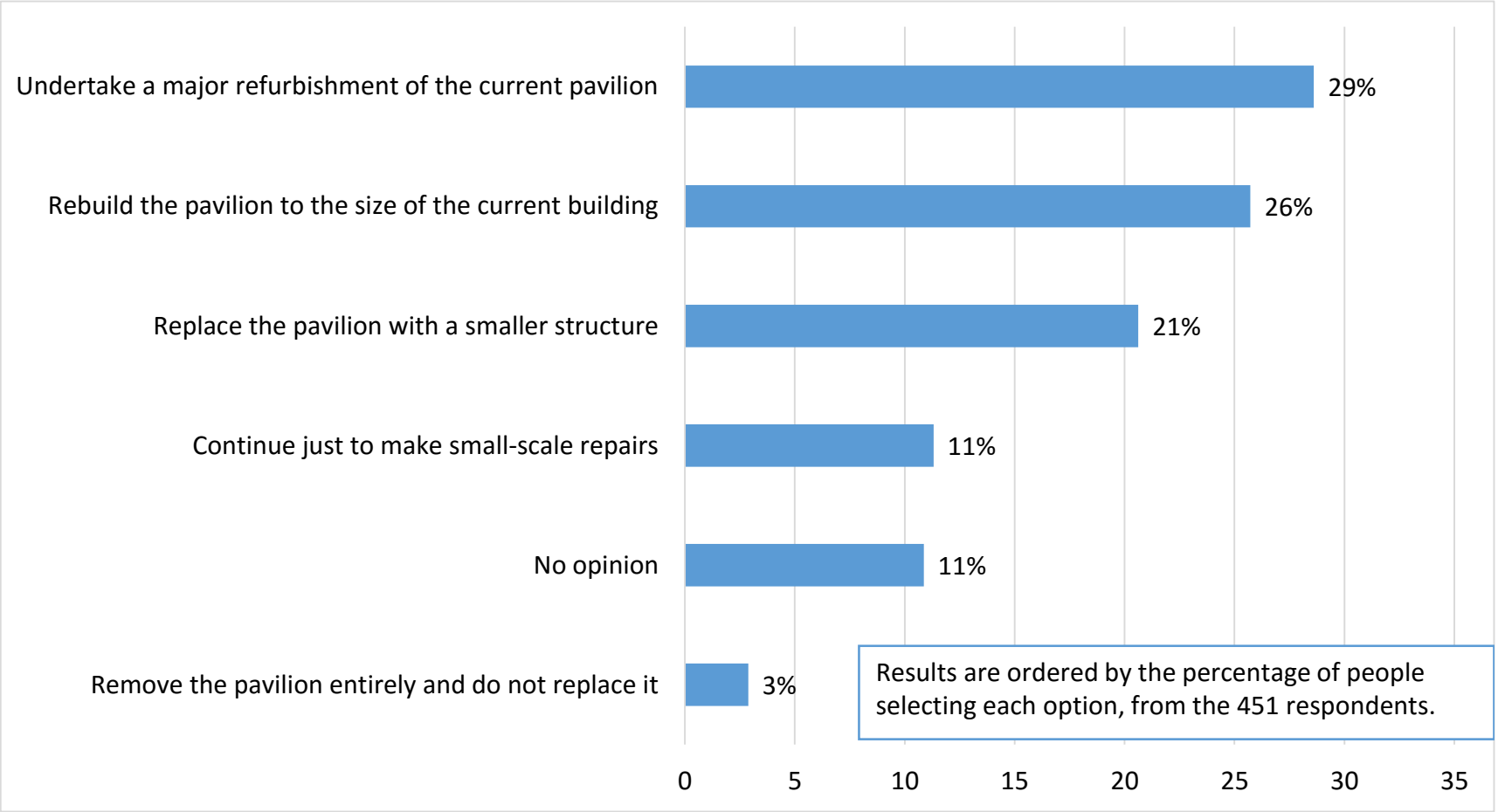
Disabled access:

No easy disabled access to Pavilion and shop

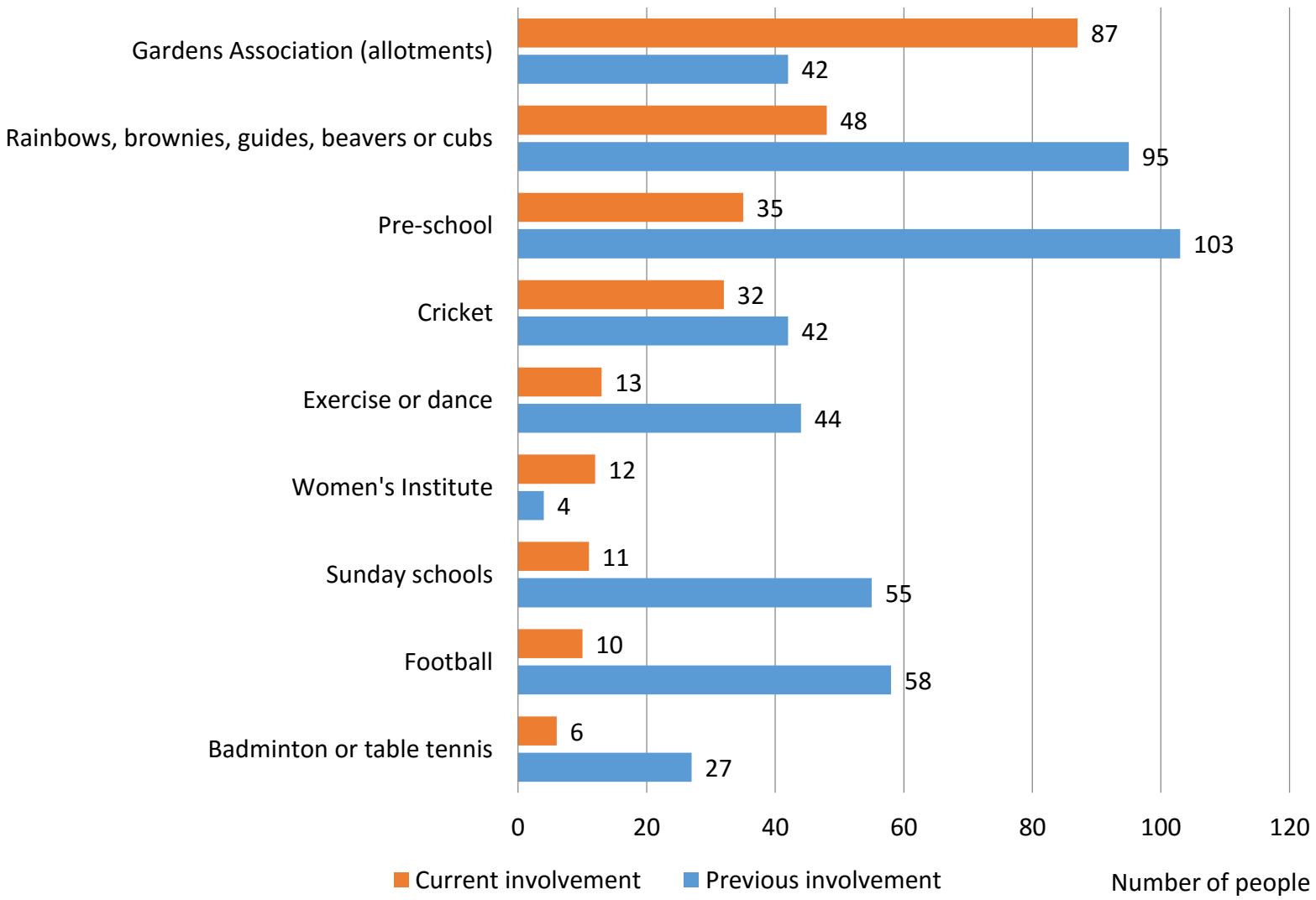
5. Given the size and character of Flamstead, do you think we have the right amount of these sports and leisure facilities?



6. The pavilion is used by sports clubs but is in need of repair, renovation or replacement. What would your suggestion to the Parish Council be on the best way forward, bearing in mind that some options may involve fundraising?



7. Which of the following groups that use the parish facilities have you been involved in or are you currently involved in?



General comments about Flamstead

Village and community:

Many people commented that they value Flamstead as a charming small village in a rural setting, as well as its friendly, caring and supportive community. The shop, post office, pubs and churches are important to residents, and so are the village groups, activities, churches and school

Downsides:

A general point of “quality over quantity” emerged, with requests for better maintenance of the rec as well as the roads, drains, pavements and streetlights; make the entrance to the village more attractive and solve the A5 access problems

Miscellaneous:

Requests to improve general information about groups and coordination of usage of meeting facilities; continue lobbying over aircraft noise; mixed views on whether creating a Neighbourhood Plan would strengthen the existing planning protection or not; rebuild trust between the PC and the community (inferred from the tone and content of around 20 comments received)